

Appl. No. 10/717,881
Resp. to Notice dated March 29, 2006
Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of March 21, 2006

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
walls enclosing a process chamber;
a wafer susceptor positioned within the chamber;
a first exhaust conduit in fluid communication with the chamber; and
a processing gas source in fluid communication with the chamber through a gas distribution showerhead, the gas distribution showerhead comprising:
a first channel in fluid communication with the processing gas source and with apertures distributed over a lower surface of the showerhead, wherein the apertures define a first area; and
a second channel separate from the first channel and in fluid communication with a second exhaust conduit and with exhaust apertures distributed over the lower surface of the showerhead, wherein the exhaust apertures define a second area and a ratio of the first area to the second area varies as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.
2. - 4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1 wherein the ratio of the first area to the second area varies linearly as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1 wherein the ratio of the first area to the second area varies nonlinearly as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1 wherein the ratio of the first area to the second area increases as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.

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8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1 wherein the ratio of the first area to the second area decreases as a function of radial distance from the center of the gas distribution showerhead.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first exhaust conduit and the second exhaust conduit are in fluid communication with a common foreline.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the ~~plurality of second channels are~~ first exhaust conduit is in fluid communication with the common foreline through a first valve and the second exhaust conduit is in fluid communication with the common foreline through a second valve.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first exhaust conduit and the second exhaust conduit are in communication with a common vacuum pump.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first exhaust conduit and the second exhaust conduit are in communication with separate vacuum pumps.

13. - 35. (Canceled)